

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring [[(9)]];

an external conical ring [[(8)]];

semi-through side slots [[(8D)]] spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring [[(8)]]; and

a flange having a rigid housing [[(7)]] with a cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and said external conical ring [[(8)]],

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft [[(2)]], and to define an annular space [[(10)]] between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] and an outer surface of said external conical ring [[(8)]],

said annular space [[(10)]] making it possible to engage an end [[(2A)]] of said hollow shaft [[(2)]],

said external conical ring [[(8)]] being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end [[(2A)]] of said hollow shaft [[(2)]] in said annular space [[(10)]] during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and said external conical ring [[(8)]]>,

    wherein, said external conical ring has an annular external shoulder forming at a bottom of said annular space and against which is applied to abut a transversal face of said end of said shaft.

2. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein, the semi-through side slots [[(8D)]] terminate alternatively in a first end [[(8E)]] and a second end [[(8F)]] of transversal faces of said external conical ring [[(8)]].

3. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, characterized in that it also includes a rotating link [[(14)]] between said rigid housing [[(7)]] and said internal conical ring [[(9)]].

4. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

    an internal conical ring [[(9)]];  
    an external conical ring [[(8)]];

semi-through side slots [[(8D)]] spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring [[(8)]];

a flange having a rigid housing [[(7)]] with a cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and said external conical ring [[(8)]],

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft [[(2)]], and to define an annular space [[(10)]] between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] and an outer surface of said external conical ring [[(8)]],

said annular space [[(10)]] making it possible to engage an end [[(2A)]] of said hollow shaft [[(2)]],

said external conical ring [[(8)]] being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end [[(2A)]] of said hollow shaft [[(2)]] in said annular space [[(10)]] during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and said external conical ring [[(8)]]; and

a rotating link [[(14)]] between said rigid housing [[(7)]] and said internal conical ring [[(9)]]],

wherein, said rotating link [[(14)]] is made of cooperating teeth ~~(9G, 7F)~~ arranged respectively on an outer perimeter of said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and on an

inner perimeter of said cylindrical axial passage of said rigid housing [[(7)]].

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, said annular space [[(10)]] is closed on one end and open on another end, and extends over the entire length of said external conical ring [[(8)]].

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, said cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] of said housing [[(7)]] terminates by an internal annular shoulder [[(7D)]] against which said external annular ring bears.

9. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, an inside conical surface [[(8C)]] and an outside conical surface [[(9A)]], respectively of said external conical ring [[(8)]] and said internal conical ring [[(9)]] are cone-shaped with an apex on the opposite end to said shaft.

10. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring [[(9)]];

an external conical ring [[(8)]];

semi-through side slots [[(8D)]] spread out regularly

with respect to one another inside said external conical ring [[(8)]]; and

a flange having a rigid housing [[(7)]] with a cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and said external conical ring [[(8)]],

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft [[(2)]], and to define an annular space [[(10)]] between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] and an outer surface of said external conical ring [[(8)]],

said annular space [[(10)]] making it possible to engage an end [[(2A)]] of said hollow shaft [[(2)]],

said external conical ring [[(8)]] being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end [[(2A)]] of said hollow shaft [[(2)]] in said annular space [[(10)]] during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring [[(9)]] and said external conical ring [[(8)]],

wherein, said internal conical ring [[(9)]] extends on the end opposite to said shaft in a threaded cylindrical part [[(9C)]] opening from said cylindrical axial passage [[(7A)]] of said rigid housing and includes a clamping device [[(11)]] screwed onto said threaded cylindrical part [[(9C)]] and is applied against said rigid housing [[(7)]] to pull said internal conical ring and cause a spreading apart of said external conical ring.

11. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, an inner surface [[(9E)]] of said internal conical ring flares linearly through to its transversal face [[(9F)]] turned towards said shaft so that a transversal section of said internal conical ring decreases gradually.

12. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 2, further comprising a rotating link [[(14)]] between said rigid housing [[(7)]] and said internal conical ring [[(9)]].